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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kikuo IWASAKA et al.

Group Art Unit : 3739

Appl. No. : 10/822,651

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : April 13, 2004

Confirmation No. : 3102

For : FLEXIBLE TUBE FOR AN ENDOSCOPE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,
Applicant hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were
cited during the prosecution of parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/848,301:

U.S. Patent No. 5,876,331 to WU et al., which issued on March 2, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,448,988 to WATANABE, which issued on September 12, 1995

U.S. Patent No. 4,753,222 to MORISHITA, which issued on June 28, 1988;

U.S. Patent No. 6,197,014 to SAMSON et al., which issued on March 6, 2001;

U.S. Patent No. 4,690,175 to OUCHI et al., which issued on September 1, 1987;

U.S. Patent No. 6,402,687 to OUCHI, which issued on June 11, 2002;

U.S. Patent No. 4,899,787 to OUCHI et al., which issued on February 13, 1990;

U.S. Patent No. 5,217,002 to KATSURADA et al., which issued on June 8, 1993;

U.S. Patent No. 5,885,207 to IWASAKA, which issued on March 23, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 6,083,152 to STRONG, which issued on July 4, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 5,916,147 to BOURBY, which issued on June 29, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 6,206,824 to OHARA et al., which issued on March 27, 2001;

U.S. Patent No. 6,458,075 to SUGIYAMA et al., which issued on October 1, 2002;

U.S. Patent No. 6,599,239 to HAYAKAWA et al., which issued on July 29, 2003, which was cited as U.S. Patent Application No. 09/734,928 in the parent application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-50287, which was published on July 28, 1993, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicants note that this document is mentioned on page 2 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-98115, which was published on December 7, 1994, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Utility Model No. 2641789, which issued on May 2, 1997, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant notes that this document is mentioned on page 3 of the specification of the present application;

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i) and (ii), copies of the Japanese patent publications and the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants also bring the following document to the Examiner's attention:

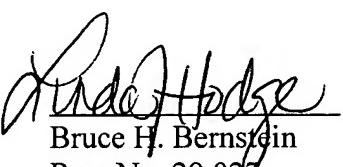
Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 2-283346, which was published on November 20, 1990, together with an English language Abstract and English language translation of the same. A copy of this document is being submitted herewith as it is a newly cited document.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of the above-noted newly cited Japanese document is attached hereto and is listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kikuo IWASAKA et al.


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FORM PTO-1449	Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. P25180	Application No. 10/822,651
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant Kikuo IWASAKA et al	
13 2004		Filing Date April 13, 2004	Group 3739

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5	8	7	6	3	3	1	03/02/99	WU et al			
	5	4	4	8	9	8	8	09/12/95	WATANABE			
	4	7	5	3	2	2	2	06/28/88	MORISHITA			
	6	1	9	7	0	1	4	03/06/01	SAMSON et al			
	4	6	9	0	1	7	5	09/01/87	OUCHI et al			
	6	4	0	2	6	8	7	06/11/02	OUCHI et al			
	4	8	9	9	7	8	7	02/13/90	OUCHI et al			
	5	2	1	7	0	0	2	06/08/93	KATSURADA et al			
	5	8	8	5	2	0	7	03/23/99	IWASA AKA			
	6	0	8	3	1	5	2	07/04/00	STRONG			
	5	9	1	6	1	4	7	06/29/99	BOURBY			
	6	2	0	6	8	2	4	03/27/01	OHARA et al			
	6	4	5	8	0	7	5	10/01/02	SUGIYAMA et al			
	6	5	9	9	2	3	9	07/29/03	HAYAKAWA et al			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.